

IDEALS FOR WHICH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS STANDS WILL PREVAIL

Hon. N. W. Rowell Says Russia and Russia Alone Can Clear up the Russian Situation—United States Must Decide For Itself Whether She Enters Assembly.

During the discussion on the Speech from the Throne in the House of Commons on Friday afternoon last, Hon. N. W. Rowell, ex-President of the Privy Council, and one of the Canadian delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations, which recently met at Geneva, occupied the House in the discussion of the activity of the League of Nations. The address was one that contained much of interest to the workers of this country, and we have taken the following extracts therefrom:

The Russian Situation Must Be Cleared Up. "Every one recognizes that the Russian situation must be cleared up in some way before Europe can return to normal conditions. One hundred and seventy-five millions of people in Russia have been producing great quantities of foodstuffs and raw materials for the consumption of the nations of the world. That production has largely ceased, and, until it is restored, the world will want for food and raw materials. On the other hand, Russia has been a great purchaser of the world's manufactured articles. She is no longer a purchaser, and until she becomes a purchaser again, there must be tens of thousands of workmen out of employment, who, in the past, were engaged in the manufacture of goods for Russian consumption. The world is very interested in clearing up the Russian situation. Every one at Geneva recognized that the situation could only be cleared up by the Russian people themselves, and that the loss outside interference there was with Russia the more and more peace and justice, as the British Commonwealth of free nations.

I believe that nothing will more quickly bring the Russian people to an appreciation of the League of Nations, and that the League of Nations will be the best way of clearing up the Russian situation. I believe that nothing will more quickly bring the Russian people to an appreciation of the League of Nations, and that the League of Nations will be the best way of clearing up the Russian situation. I believe that nothing will more quickly bring the Russian people to an appreciation of the League of Nations, and that the League of Nations will be the best way of clearing up the Russian situation.

When one asks, will the United States come in... We asked the same question during the first two and a half years of the war, while the United States discussed and debated the question, and events in that country developed. The result was that the circumstances of the situation, plus the conscience and judgment of the American people, brought them into the League of Nations. The same result will follow in the case of the League of Nations, and that after they are through their discussion and consideration of the events of the world, the compulsion that comes from world events, plus the judgment and conscience of the American people, will bring them into the League. Whether they

LABOR AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By F. J. Gould in "Justice," London, Eng. Of course, the League of Nations is capitalist. So is my head, but I eat it. So are my clothes, but I wear them. So are the railways, but I ride in them. So are schools, but I encourage them. So are newspapers, but I read them. So are theatres, but I visit them. So are co-operative societies' shares, but many a Socialist takes them. It seems to me, therefore, that trade unionists should look at the League of Nations exactly as they do at coal, shipping, agriculture, and financial credit—namely, as an institution to be coaxed or shoved into the field of public control. We know from British experience, it is no easy job to domesticate the coal industry. Need we marvel if the task of domesticating the League of Nations appears pretty huge?

So vast was the loss of young lives in the war of 1914-1918 that the menace of another world-war thrives humanity face. The League of Nations was born in the year 1919, and it is just a year old. We trade unionists can scarcely complain of the present feeble results of the League when we consider that what is happening with regard to our own international relations. Some important committees are still outside. One is Russia, which, in its present condition is better off than in, and yet Finland, republic which formed part of Russia in 1918, has entered, and Poland, partly Russian in 1914, is a member. Our late enemies, Austria and Bulgaria, have been admitted. Germany is not unwilling to join. Whatever may be the course, the United States will adopt, nothing can alter the fact that the League idea was virtually established by President Taft—our President Woodrow Wilson, and that a considerable body of Americans voted for the League policy at the President's election in 1920.

The League Covenant (Article 13) ensures the open registration of all treaties. The recent assembly of forty-six nations at Geneva was in its main sessions, open to public audiences. So also with the frequent council meetings of eight to nine national representatives. I myself walked into St. James' Palace, London, last June without a ticket, and did some other people, and there were 250 of us common citizens listening while the chief results of the council's discussions were announced. A hundred, or fifty, or twenty years hence, such openness of procedure would have seemed an extravagant dream. Anybody with half a political eye might see in such a situation immense possibilities of further development.

Some of the Results. You can take whatever grains of compulsory Labor Service Act in



HON. N. W. ROWELL, ex-president of the Privy Council, whose utterances in regard to the League of Nations was the outstanding feature of the first week in Parliament.

Bulgaria (June, 1920). Under this act all citizens of both sexes are liable to "community labor." Mohammedan girls being excepted. Complete legal details are furnished as to this remarkable experiment. I submit that the League is not dead, that it cannot be dissolved, that it has already exhibited real value, and that trade unionists will do well to follow its proceedings with attention, and resolve to utilize the League, like all other institutions, for the purpose of Co-operative Democracy.

"There was once an Irish author who complained with great frankness that he was 'battered entirely by a preliminary want of information.' And so it is with many critics of educational expenditure." —Dr. Fisher.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF IMMIGRATION AND ITS REMEDY

By C. W. H.

The present policy of recruiting labor in Great Britain and other parts of industrial Europe is self-evidently vicious. Within the past few weeks, and in spite of assurances from the Government to the contrary, immigrants have come to Canada from industrial centres in England, and to all appearances they have come here to starve. They have been taken right out of the big centres in England and transported to Canada to work on the farms, no less, when, perhaps, they never saw a plow and have as much idea of cultivation as a may-fly has of Santa Claus. The employment agency paints glowing pictures of Canadian prosperity, plays upon the misfortunes and ignorance of the would-be immigrant, takes advantage of the fact that he is out of work, and giving him a vague assurance that there will be plenty of employment in Canada, ships him over here, there, by alleviating the unemployment situation in the old countries, but at the same time making ours more serious. We do not want industrial workers. We have more than we can comfortably handle now, and the sooner we stop importing labor from England the better. The only place for them to go is on the farms, and experience has proved all along that the immigrants recruited in industrial centres in England or any other industrial country, will not and cannot become farm laborers. Sooner or later they desert the farms and move into the cities, creating surplus unemployment, and where they either starve or become paupers.

How then are we to supply the horde of laborers necessary to till the farms when we want them? If the foregoing has been intelligently stated, and if the reader will call to mind many instances within the range of his own experience it will appear that the present system of recruiting labor will not get the men. That much is self-evident. We may be faced with a scarcity of labor on our farm for many years, but it would be infinitely better to get fewer than we require and have them stay on the farms, than to recruit any and all that are to be found, and have them forsake the farms and flock to the cities, there to swell the ranks of the already unemployed.

We are perfectly aware that the present system, whether intentionally or not, is admirably suited to keeping down wages. With a great surplus of labor in our cities it is much easier for employers to engage cheaper labor, it is a splendid aid to the manufacturer when he wishes to force "open shop" on his men, it is a whip that forces labor into submission, and by the threat of its lash, stunts the country's economic growth. We are aware of these things, and so are the employers, and for that reason much opposition will be encountered in any attempt to take away the "whip." But it can and must be done. There are in Canada now, dotted all across the country from Halifax to Vancouver numerous employment agencies whose business it is to smooth out the curves of unemployment—to make the number of unemployed as near as possible at all times. It is a splendid system, and it has at times been most instrumental in securing employment for large bodies of men. It has smoothed out the peaks of unemployment; but the unemployed have not been absorbed. Under the old system we had a preponderant number of unemployed in the few cities, now we have unemployed in all cities. The situation is unavoidable from the point of view of the machinery to work with—but Canada cannot solve her unemployment problem alone. Canada is a difficult country to develop and the character of our climate is such that we will always have a great many idle men in the winter, and the number of idle men in the country during the cold weather will vary in a direct ratio with the development of our resources. It is unavoidable. It is as certain as taxes.

There is one remedy. The machinery is in course of erection, and it is the business of the working world to see that the men

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selected to operate the machinery are fit for the work. Presently, international labor bureaus will exist wherever men work or are out of employment. There is always some country in need of men, and there will always be railroads and ships to take the men to the jobs when the men are located. When it is winter in Canada it may seem to the unemployed that the whole world has turned off the power and closed its doors. But it isn't winter everywhere all the time, and just as there is always plenty of work in Canada in the summer time, so in there plenty of work in other countries when there is little work here. It will be the business of the

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